AMENDMENT OF THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the Specification as follows:

On Page 13, after the fifth paragraph, insert the following paragraph:

--Figs. 4E and 4F set forth exemplary construction parameters used in the laser scanning platform of the illustrative embodiment;--

On Page 14, amend the first paragraph as follows:

~~Fig. 6 illustrates~~ Figs. 6A and 6B illustrate an exemplary system design for the automatically-activated hand-holdable bar code symbol reading device 151' according to the first illustrative embodiment of the present invention, shown including a number of cooperating components, namely: control circuitry 611A and a control module 611B that cooperate to perform system control operations to effectuate the system control; a scanning circuit 613 that drives the VLD and laser beam scanning mechanism (e.g., motor of rotating polygon of the laser scanning platform) to thereby produce, from a dynamically pulse frequency and width modulated laser beam, either (i) a visible omni-directional laser scanning pattern 499 having multiple laser scanning lines with substantially uniform spatial and temporal intensity characteristics at any given scanning plane within the working distance of the system (during the omndirectional bar code reading mode of the system), or (ii) a visible stroboscopically-pulsed omnidirectional laser scanning pattern 500 against a single laser scanning line 501 having substantially uniform spatial and temporal intensity characteristics at any given scanning plane within the working distance of the system (during the uni-directional bar code reading mode of the system); a scan photoreceiving circuit 615 for detecting laser light reflected off a scanned bar code symbol and producing an electrical signal $D_1$ indicative of the detected intensity; an analog-to-digital (A/D) conversion circuit 617 for converting analog scan data signal $D_1$ into a corresponding digital scan data signal $D_2$; a bar code symbol presence detection circuit 619 for processing digital scan data signal $D_2$ in order to automatically detect the digital data pattern of a bar code symbol on the detected object and produce control activation signal $A_2$; a symbol decoding module 621 for processing digital scan data signal $D_2$ so as to determine the data represented by the detected bar

code symbol, generate symbol character data representative thereof, and produce activation control signal $A_3$; a data packet synthesis module 623 for synthesizing a group of formatted data packets (that include the symbol character data generated by the symbol decoding module); a data packet transmission circuit 625 for transmitting the group of data packets synthesized by the data packet synthesis module 623 to the base unit 503 (for retransmission to the host device); means (e.g. an object sensing circuit 627 and an object detection circuit 629) for producing a first activation control signal indicative of the detection of an object in at least a portion of the object detection field of the device; an SOS photoreceiving circuit 631 for detecting laser light directed thereto by positioning indicating optical element(s) (such as a lens and light guide or mirror as described above) and deriving timing signal $T_{SOS}$ that is synchronized thereto; a timing signal generator circuit 633 that derives a timing signal $T_{SLS}$ from the timing signal $T_{SOS}$, wherein the timing signal $T_{SLS}$ is synchronized to the time interval when the laser beam (as redirected by the rotating polygon) generates (e.g., when the laser beam strikes the central stationary mirror 38C) the visible single laser scanning line with substantially uniform spatial and temporal intensity characteristics (against a visible stroboscopically-pulsed omni-directional laser scanning pattern) during the unidirectional bar code reading mode of the system a VLD duty cycle (i.e. spatial and temporal intensity); control circuit 635 that operates (under control of the control circuitry 611A or microprocessor control) in the uni-directional bar code reading mode of operation, to control the spatial and temporal intensity characteristics of the laser beam generated from the VLD in the laser beam production module (via dynamic pulse frequency and width modulation) such that a visible stroboscopically-pulsed omnidirectional laser scanning pattern 500 is produced at all times during each scanning cycle except during those intervals when the laser beam (as redirected by the rotating polygon 36) strikes the central stationary mirror 38C, during which time its amplitude is maintained constant, so as to generate a visible single laser scanning line 501 having substantially uniform spatial and temporal intensity characteristics sufficient to support unidirectional bar code symbol reading; a manually-actuatable data transmission switch 637 for generating control activation signal $A_4$ in response to activation of the switch 637; a mode switch 639 for generating control activation signal $A_5$ in response to activation of the switch 639; state indications (e.g. LEDs) 170' that provide a visible indication of the operating state (e.g., object detection state, a bar code symbol presence detection state, bar code symbol reading state, and data transmission state) of the device 151'; and a power control circuit 641,

operably coupled to the rechargeable battery supply unit (not shown) of the device 151', that automatically controls (i.e. manages) the availability of battery power to electrically-active components within the bar code symbol reading device when the device is operated in its hands-on mode of operation (i.e. removed from the scanner support stand) under a predefined set of operating conditions.

On Page 17, amend the first, second and fifth paragraphs as follows:

Fig. 7B illustrates an example of the timing signal $T_{SLS}$ produced by the timing signal generator circuit of ~~Fig. 6~~ Figs. 6A and 6B, including pulses (e.g., a pulse train) each corresponding to a single rotation of the rotating polygon and each having a leading and trailing edge synchronized to the time interval between $T_2$ and $T_1$ when the scanning beam (as redirected by the rotating polygon) strikes the particular mirror group (e.g., central stationary mirror 38C) that produces the single laser scanning line 501 of substantially uniform spatial and temporal intensity characteristics, against the stroboscopically-pulsed omni-directional laser scanning pattern 500 formed by numerous laser scanning lines having substantially non-uniform spatial and temporal intensity characteristics.

Fig. 7C is an example format of a Boolean logic expression that describes the selective enablement of the VLD drive circuitry of the scanning circuit of ~~Fig. 6~~ Figs. 6A and 6B for purposes of dynamically controlling the spatial and temporal intensity characteristics of the visible laser scanning beam at each instant of laser beam scanning during each scanning cycle (i.e. each rotation of the polygon scanning element), via programmable VLD duty cycle control. The first term of the expression describes the enablement of the VLD drive circuitry during the uni-directional bar code reading mode of operation (which is dictated by the control circuitry 611A with signals $E_{10} = 1$ and $A_5=1$). The second term in the expression described the enablement of the VLD drive circuitry during the omni-directional bar code reading mode of operation (which is dictated by the control circuitry 611A with signals $E_{10} = 1$ and $A_5=0$).

Figs. 9A, 9B, 9C and 9D, taken together, show a high level flow chart of an exemplary control process carried out by the control subsystem of the automatic bar code reading system of ~~Fig. 6~~ Figs. 6A and 6B during the course of its programmed operation.

On Page 18, amend the sixth paragraph as follows:

Fig. ~~12B~~ 12C is a third perspective view of the automatically-activated hand-holdable bar code symbol reading device, showing its rear housing portion.

On Page 19, amend the last paragraph as follows:

Fig. 15A and ~~15 B~~ 15B, collectively, illustrate an exemplary system design for the automatically-activated hand-holdable bar code symbol reading device 151'' according to the second illustrative embodiment of the present invention, shown including a number of cooperating components, namely: control circuitry 611A and a control module 611B that cooperate to perform system control operations to effectuate the system's control functions; a scanning circuit 613 that drives the VLD and laser beam scanning mechanism (e.g., motor of rotating polygon of the laser scanning platform) to thereby produce either (i) a visible omni-directional laser scanning pattern 499 having multiple laser scanning lines with substantially uniform spatial and temporal intensity characteristics at any given scanning plane within the working distance of the system (during the omni-directional bar code reading mode of the system), or (ii) a visible stroboscopically-pulsed omni-directional laser scanning pattern 500 against a single laser scanning line 501 having substantially uniform spatial and temporal intensity characteristics at any given scanning plane within the working distance of the system (during the uni-directional bar code reading mode of the system); a scan photo-receiving circuit 615 for detecting laser light reflected off a scanned bar code symbol and producing an electrical signal $D_1$ indicative of the detected intensity; an analog-to-digital (A/D) conversion circuit (i.e. digitizer circuit) 617 for converting analog scan data signal $D_1$ into a corresponding digital scan data signal $D_2$; a bar code symbol presence detection circuit 619 for processing digital scan data signal $D_2$ in order to automatically detect the digital data pattern of a bar code symbol on the detected object and produce control activation signal $A_2$; a symbol decoding module 621 for processing digital scan data signal $D_2$ so as to determine the data represented by the detected bar code symbol, generate symbol character data representative thereof, and produce activation control signal $A_3$; a data packet synthesis module 623 for synthesizing a group of formatted data

packets (that include the symbol character data generated by the symbol decoding module); a data packet transmission circuit 625 for transmitting the group of data packets synthesized by the data packet synthesis module 623 to the base unit 503 (for retransmission to the host device); means (e.g. an object sensing circuit 627 and an object detection circuit 629) for producing a first activation control signal indicative of the detection of an object in at least a portion of the object detection field of the device; a manually-activatable data transmission switch 637 for generating control activation signal $A_4$ in response to activation of the switch 637; a mode switch 639 for generating control activation signal $A_5$ in response to activation of the switch 639; state indications (e.g. LEDs) 170' that provide a visible indication of the operating state (e.g., object detection state, a bar code symbol presence detection state, bar code symbol reading state, and data transmission state) of the device 151"; and a power control circuit 641, operably coupled to the rechargeable battery supply unit (not shown) of the device 151", that automatically controls (i.e. manages) the availability of battery power to electrically-active components within the bar code symbol reading device when the device is operated in its hands-on mode of operation (i.e. removed from the scanner support stand) under a predefined set of operating conditions.

On Page 35, amend the first full paragraph as follows:

Figs. 4A and 4B illustrate an exemplary laser scanning platform that employs a mechanism that controls the duty cycle of a laser light source (e.g., laser diode) to selectively produce an omni-directional scanning pattern or the single line scanning pattern. As shown in Fig. 4A, the laser scanning platform 53' comprises an assembly of subcomponents assembled upon an optical bench 34 with respect to a central longitudinal reference plane 35. The optical bench is mounted to the housing 161' of the device 151' by posts 42. This subcomponent assembly includes a scanning polygon 36 having four light reflective surfaces (e.g., facets) 36A, 36B, 36C and 36D, each disposed at an tilt angle $\beta$ with respect to the rotational axis of the polygon as shown in Fig. ~~5A~~ 4F. An electrical motor is mounted on the optical bench 34 and has a rotatable shaft on which polygon 36 is mounted for rotation therewith. An array of stationary mirrors 38A, 38B, 38C, 38D and 38E is fixedly mounted with supports (not shown) to the optical bench 34 at twist and bend angles $\alpha$, $\theta$ as shown in Figs. 4A and ~~5B~~ 4E.

On Page 56, amend the fourth paragraph as follows:

In addition, it should be noted that the control process carried out by the control subsystem of the bar code reading device 151' of ~~Fig. 6~~ Figs. 6A and 6B during the course of its programmed operation as set forth above may be varied significantly without departing from the scope of the inventions as described earlier herein.